



May 15, 2021

Megan Frey

VIA EMAIL omgmeganlea@gmail.com

Re: FOIA request dated & received 5/11/21

Subject: All communication between any member of the staff, administrators, including the Superintendent and the Assistant Superintendent the school board and any member of the any of the School board committees and the vendor CASEL in regards to any curriculum or programs currently in use and any discussions for future orders, including those orders for the Fall 2021 new Social Emotional Learning (SEL) materials discussed at the School Board Meeting on May 10th, 2021. The scope of this request is 6/1/20 through 5/11/21.

This letter will serve as Oswego Community Unit School District 308's response to your May 7, 2021 request under the Freedom of Information Act (5 ILCS 140/1 et seq.), in which you asked for the above referenced information.

There are no records responsive to this request.

To promote district transparency and assist others who may have a similar question, this responsive document will be posted online on the district's website. To access it, go to www.sd308.org and select *Our District > Freedom of Information Act Request > FOIA Request Responses > FOIA Requests Responses -2021* then select FOIA ID #21-32.

Please let me know if you have additional questions. Thank you.

Christi Tyler

Christi Tyler
Freedom of Information Officer

SUBJECT: How will you budget for SEL?
FROM: CASEL <info@casel.org>
TO: sgreen@sd308.org
DATE: 22/04/2021 13:48

A note from CASEL: We know that racism and police violence did not begin, and will not end, with a single event. We reaffirm our commitment to the ongoing, collective work of anti-racism. For SEL guidance & support on discussing these events with students, visit casel.org/supportive-environments/

C NNECTIONS

This Month's SEL Conversation | April 2021

Top of Mind: Budgeting for SEL

If you're wondering about district or state priorities, one should take a close look at their budgets - and this budget season is no exception. There is a fresh urgency and unprecedented opportunity to invest in SEL, including support for students' learning and development, educator well-being, family and community partnerships, and more inclusive and equitable learning environments. The historic levels of K-12 dollars through the [American Rescue Plan](#) can provide a long-term foundation for evidence-based, systemic implementation of SEL as we move beyond the pandemic.

We strongly recommend engaging students, educators, families, and communities in the planning and decision-making process around investments to holistically support all students and adults. Here are seven potential SEL investments to discuss:

Potential SEL Investments

- ✓ Expanded learning opportunities
- ✓ Evidence-based SEL programs
- ✓ Staffing and schedules
- ✓ Support for adult well-being
- ✓ Professional learning
- ✓ Integrated support systems
- ✓ Data systems

1. Expanded learning opportunities that integrate social, emotional, and academic learning across in-school and [out-of-school time](#)
2. [Evidence-based SEL programs](#) that emphasize developmentally appropriate and culturally affirming SEL competencies
3. Staffing and schedules that support [relationship-centered](#) practices
4. Support for educator, school staff, and out-of-school time provider [well-being](#)
5. Professional learning that builds [educator capacity](#) to promote SEL and create safe, inclusive learning environments for all students
6. Integrated support systems across schools, families, and [communities](#)
7. Data systems that inform students, educators, and families and support continuous improvement of student outcomes and experiences

With these considerations and resources in mind, this moment offers not only a challenge to meet, but also an opportunity to rebuild our education system to better support every student.

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Let's Talk More About...

SEL and Program Selection: Aligning to District Priorities

As districts work to bring SEL to life, the selection of the right programs is critical. So how do you adopt an evidence-based SEL program that is aligned with district priorities, is culturally relevant, and feels like a seamless part of core instruction? That question was raised in El Paso Independent School District (EPISD), which serves over 57,000 PreK-12th grade students in Texas. Our new [Practices of Promise](#) series features their story and offers key takeaways, including the importance of meaningfully engaging staff, families, and the whole community. To select SEL programs, the El Paso team worked with a wide range of stakeholders to align with existing initiatives, engaged parents and community members in the decision-making process, and listened to teachers and school leaders about implementation needs. Their example reminds us to consider how programs can support the strengths, cultural backgrounds, and interests of the community, and to ensure the selected programs are supported throughout the district and meet community needs.

Related action: Use [this tool](#) to select programs that align with the needs of your community

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SEL and Discipline: Developing Equity-Centered Practices

When discipline policies and practices are centered around student learning, developmentally appropriate, and culturally responsive, they can reinforce SEL and support equitable outcomes. Many school districts are moving away from the ineffective strategies of punishment and external control that have been historically used for misbehavior. But study after study has [shown](#) that when accounting for a range of student, family, and school level contributors, African American students still receive significantly more exclusionary discipline than white students. To challenge disparities, a [new research paper](#) suggests that education leaders need to combine SEL and discipline efforts with a deeper understanding of cultural and historical oppression, capacity-building for adults' cultural competence, strengths-based supports, and instructional approaches that address opportunity gaps.

Related action: Use [this tool](#) to implement restorative practices and SEL together

[Tweet](#)

SEL and Civics: Using Service-Learning to Reach Beyond the Classroom

Parents and teachers agree that SEL and service-learning have a reciprocal, mutually reinforcing relationship. Service-learning offers students real-world experiences that connect classroom learning to life, broaden perspectives, deepen social awareness, and connect actions to the needs of communities. But there is an implementation gap: Only one in 10 teachers believe their schools are very successful at developing students' ability to apply knowledge to real-world situations and their SEL skills. To address this, we need to strengthen both [SEL and civic learning](#) opportunities in tandem. A [new report](#) argues for expanding student opportunities like service-learning electives, promoting SEL and service-learning training for staff, as well as embedding it into state standards and workforce prep models.

Related action: Save the date for the [2021 SEL Exchange Virtual Summit](#) on "SEL and Civic Learning for Empowered Youth"

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Worth A Read

[Social-Emotional Learning Is Essential to 'Build Back Better'](#) | K-12 Dive

- CASEL CEO/President Karen Niemi and CASEL Board Member and Urban Assembly CEO David Adams write that the crises of the past year drive home the importance of SEL in preparing students for the future.

[Q&A: Meeting the Needs of Students of Color in a Time of Collective Trauma](#) | Education Week

- Professor Janine Jones says that when we have SEL curricula “solely focused on practicing an individual skill or technique, but not in relationship with other people, we miss a lot.”

[What Do Today's Kids Need for Tomorrow's World? More Than Tech and Academics](#) | EdSurge

- Author Stephanie Krauss argues for integrating SEL competencies into education rather than “relegating” it to separate lessons.

[Asking Questions About Using Nonacademic Indicators for Accountability](#) | American Enterprise Institute

- This report explores how academic indicators could lead to better decision-making and, ultimately, better outcomes for students.

[Accelerating Learning as We Build Back Better](#) | Forbes

- CASEL board member emeritus Linda Darling-Hammond coauthored this op-ed exploring a “new normal” that includes SEL.

What's Next

April 23: [Learning from Student Perspectives](#) | CASEL

- Free CASEL webinar explores what we can learn from students’ perspectives on their own experiences

May 2-5: [Science & Wisdom of Emotions Summit](#) | Awake Network and Mind & Life Institute

- Explore how to cultivate emotional well-being, work with challenging emotions, care for others, & participate in the creation of a more interconnected & compassionate world

May 14: [Virtual Student Voice Summit: Aiming for Action and Agency!](#) | Mindful Practices and Class Catalyst

- Led entirely by K-12 students, this Student Voice Summit will feature young speakers, performers, panelists, and interviews from students of all ages. Educators and their students are welcomed to attend

May 21: [American Rescue Plan Act: Funding Social and Emotional Learning](#) | CASEL

- Free CASEL webinar on how the American Rescue Plan (ARP) offers opportunity for long-term investments in SEL

June 21: [Final day to register for Learning Together SEL Workshops](#) | CASEL

- Join four, two-hour sessions for school leaders beginning July 13, 2021

October 14: [2021 SEL Exchange Virtual Summit](#) | CASEL

- Sign up to be alerted when registration opens for “Beyond Talk: Building Tomorrow Together”

"Social and emotional learning has to do with how we interact with each other. If you just focus on academics, you're missing this whole other component of life that is super important."

-Joshua Smith
Baltimore City Public Schools

#SELVoices

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The Allstate Foundation and CASEL are collaborating to focus the country's attention on the power of social and emotional learning to equip the next generation with the skills they need to succeed. The Allstate Foundation champions SEL and service-learning programs to ensure youth reach their full potential and have the power to build the just, equitable and healthy world we all deserve. www.AllstateFoundation.org

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SUBJECT: New spotlight feature, upcoming Q&A, Equity Resources, and more!
FROM: CASEL <info@casel.org>
TO: hpodjasek@sd308.org
DATE: 18/08/2020 13:35

CONNECTIONS

COLLABORATIVE FOR ACADEMIC, SOCIAL, AND EMOTIONAL LEARNING MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

August 2020

Have Questions About Restarting the School Year With SEL?

We invite all educators to join us on August 25 from 4:30-5:30 pm ET for *Restarting the School Year with SEL: Live Q&A Chat for Educators*, featuring a panel of 30 experts. The chat-based forum is designed to answer all your questions on the **SEL Roadmap** and the return to learning, to help you achieve the best outcomes for your staff, students, and communities this year. **Register today.**



2020 SEL Exchange Virtual Summit Registration Opens Soon

Registration will open on September 14 for the **2020 SEL Exchange Virtual Summit**. The four-hour event on “Catalyzing Our Commitment to Youth” will take place October 15. Be sure to save the date to hear from a diverse cross-section of voices dedicated to understanding individual and societal healing and transformation through SEL, anchored by an unwavering commitment to equity.



New Report on SEL Through an Equity Lens

A **new report** from the Education Trust calls for school and district leaders to approach SEL through an equity lens, offering six key recommendations. The report highlights the need to shift the focus away from “fixing kids” and toward addressing the adult mindsets, as well as school and district policies that create the learning environment.



Tool: 5-Minute Chats With Students

This sample agenda and set of questions for **one-on-one check-ins** with students can build connections and help educators respond to needs, especially as school restarts.



Guide for Building Equitable Learning Environments

The BELE Network has curated a **collection of resources** to help educators prioritize equity and SEL this fall. The guide includes sections on the BELE framework, incorporating SEL in your schools, creating systemic change in your community, and additional specialized resources.



August Spotlight: Integrating SEL with Academics

Social and emotional competencies serve as a foundation for achieving academic goals, while academic instruction provides a ripe opportunity for teaching and practicing SEL.

"I came to realize what a big part SEL plays in how students learn math. At the age of five, students in kindergarten come to school with all different emotions about learning and being in a new space. What they haven't developed yet is a distaste for any one subject. When I look at how my students approach math at the beginning of the year, I see enthusiasm and wonder. They are so excited to dig in; they hardly realize they are learning. I have the unique opportunity to capitalize on their enthusiasm and wonder. Building in some self-confidence along the way will hopefully lead to more students gravitating toward the love of math in subsequent years."

- Teacher from a CASEL research-practice partnership

- Our Guide to Schoolwide SEL provides guidance and tools for integrating SEL with academics. **Learn more.**
- We partnered with elementary school leaders and teachers to explore the gains and opportunities of integrating SEL with mathematic instruction. **Read the brief.**
- A look at how Nashville implements social, emotional, and academic development across every grade level. **View the 8-min video.**

SEL Snapshot: Download and Share

Educator Survey Highlights SEL Needs

New data from Houghton Mifflin Harcourt's
6th Annual Educator Report

This survey included more than 1,200 K-12 classroom teachers and 200+ administrators. While only 17% believed their school was prepared for distance learning in the spring, a majority said they have learned and are using new online or virtual instructional methodologies.

Social-Emotional Learning is a Priority

7% of educators were prepared to **address the social-emotional (SEL) needs** of students during the COVID-19 disruption.



94% of educators continue to agree that students increasingly need more **social and emotional support**.



are concerned about student social emotional wellbeing.

Source: <https://learning.hmhco.com/ECR2020>

Worth Checking Out This Month

Into Coronavirus and the Classroom: The Biggest Online Learning Experiment Ever. *Into America Podcast.* | [More](#)

Six Online Activities to Help Students Cope With COVID-19. *Greater Good Magazine.* | [More](#)

Initiating Conversations with Your Children About Racial and Social Justice. *Confident Parents, Confident Kids.* | [More](#)

Respect With No Exceptions. *SmartBrief.* | [More](#)

COVID-19 Pandemic Resources. *National Center for School Crisis and Bereavement.* | [More](#)

Mark Your Calendar

August 19, 10am ET: Pure Edge Webinar: Culture of Care Summer Institute II – Brain Breaks Implementation. [Register](#)

August 19, 3pm ET: Twitter Chat on SEL and Equity with Education Trust, America's Promise Alliance, and CASEL. [Learn more](#)

August 21, 1pm ET: CASEL CARES Webinar, Return to School During COVID-19: Helping Children and Families Manage Stress and Build Resilience. [Register](#)

August 25, 11:30am ET: SEL Exchange Virtual Summit Webinar sponsored by Mawi Learning: Back-to-School This Fall: SEL Best Practices for Any Learning Environment. [Register](#)

August 25, 4:30 ET: Restarting the School Year with SEL: Live Q&A Chat for Educators. [Register](#)

August 28, 1pm ET: CASEL CARES Webinar, Cultivating Adult SEL in Unprecedented Times: Latest scientific

research, programs, and practices to support adults' wellness. [Register](#)

September 8, 3:30pm ET: SEL Exchange Virtual Summit Webinar sponsored by Rethink Ed: Integrating SEL to Connect, Heal and Recover: Lessons from District Leaders. [Register](#)

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